

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3822
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR

S E C R E T DAR ES SALAAM 0314

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, TZ, PDIP
SUBJECT: U.S. REPRESENTATION AT FEB 5 CELEBRATION BRIEFING
PAPER: PRESIDENT NYERERE

1. FOLLOWING IS SKETCH OF PRESIDENT JULIUS K. NYERERE OF
POSSIBLE INTEREST TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG IN CONNECTION WITH
HIS ATTENDANCE AT FEB 5 CELEBRATIONS IN ZANZIBAR.

2. AT AGE 55 NYERERE IS AT HEIGHT OF HIS POWERS. HE HAS
NO SIGNIFICANT DOMESTIC OPPOSITION AND REMAINS IN CLOSE
TOUCH WITH HIS PEOPLE. HE IS AMONG THE MOST HIGHLY RESPECTED
LEADERS IN AFRICA. HE HAS ATTRACTED LARGE SCALE AID FROM A
VARIETY OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES HAD HAS HELD RIGOROUSLY TO HIS
OWN POLICY LINE WHILE DOING SO. HE TAKES PRIDE IN HIS
CHOSEN ROLE OF MWALIMU, "TEACHER", AND IN BEING DIFFERENT FROM
MOST AFRICAN LEADERS WHOM HE PRIVATELY SEES AS ROUGH MILITARY
MEN, BUFFOONS, OR GOOD BUT SIMPLE FELLOWS.

3. HE HAS A DISARMING MODESTY THAT GOES WELL WITH HIS
SLIGHT, GRACEFUL FIGURE, PIXYISH WIT, AND SUPERB COMMAND
OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. (HE HAS TRANSLATED JULIUS
CAESAR AND THE MERCHANT OF VENICE INTO SWAHILI.) HE
CAN BE ALMOST AS GOOD A LISTENER AS HE IS A TALKER, SITTING
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SILENTLY WITH A SCOWL OF CONCENTRATION. IF HE HARBORS ANY
RACIAL RESENTMENT, HE HAS NEVER BEEN KNOWN TO SHOW IT.

4. NYERERE IS DOCTRINAIRE, MILITANTLY SOCIALIST AND EGALITARIAN,
STRONG IN HIS IDENTIFICATION WITH THE "HAVE-NOTS" OF THE WORLD.
HE IS A MAN WITH A MISSION, OUT TO BUILD INSTITUTIONS AND
ATTITUDES WHICH WILL PERSIST AFTER HE IS GONE. HOWEVER, HE

CAN ALSO BE PRAGMATIC AND IS SOMETIMES GIVEN TO EULOGIES OF "BOURGEOIS VALUES", SUCH AS DISSENT AND DISCUSSION, WHICH HE CLAIMS HE RECOMMENDS TO THE SOVIETS -- ABOUT WHOM HE IS FOND OF TELLING MILDLY CRITICAL ANECDOTES. (HE MAY HAVE SIMILAR VIGNETTES ABOUT THE US FOR THE SOVIETS.)

5. HE RETAINS AN AFFINITY FOR THE COMMONWEALTH, LIKES CALLAGHAN, IS PARTIAL TO LEFTIST ENGLISH JOURNALISTS, AND ADMIRES COMMUNIST CHINA AND CUBA. ABOUT THE UNITED STATES, HE IS SCHIZOPHRENIC, GRANTING THAT ITS POLICY IS SUSCEPTIBLE TO REASON AND LOGIC BUT ALSO SUSPICIOUS OF ITS "RICH COUNTRY" MOTIVATIONS. HE KNOWS AFRICA WELL, IS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO A "NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER", BUT KNOWS AND CARES LESS ABOUT GLOBAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS.

6. ABOVE ALL, NYERERE CONSIDERS HIMSELF A MORAL MAN AND AN INTELLECTUAL, NOT GIVEN TO BARGAINING AND BACK-SCRATCHING. WHEN FACED WITH A POSITION HE DOESN'T LIKE, HE WILL TRY TO EVADE, CLAIMING IGNORANCE OF THE FACTS OR INABILITY TO UNDERSTAND HIS OPPOSITION. IF PRESSED, HE IS APT TO RETREAT INTO STUBBORN SILENCE OR, RARELY, BREAK INTO EMOTIONAL AND LESS THAN COHERENT INDECISIVENESS. ONCE HE HAS PRESENTED A POSITION HE REACTS NEGATIVELY TO EFFORTS TO COMPROMISE OR TO "WHITTLE AWAY" AT IT. BUT HE IS USUALLY INTERESTED IN WHAT CAN BE DONE TO "ALLAY THE FEARS" OF OTHER PARTIES TO A DISPUTE. AND HE IS RECEPTIVE TO INDIRECT APPROACHES WHICH RAISE "RELATED QUESTIONS" OR SEEK TO EXPLORE "OTHER ASPECTS" OF A MATTER.

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7. NYERERE TAKES VERY SERIOUSLY US ROLE IN EVOLUTION OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN SITUATION. HE WILL BE ANXIOUS TO CONVEY HIS VIEWS ON WHAT THE USG SHOULD NOW DO TO PROMOTE MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA.
SPAIN

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